AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A call processing method, including:

<u>receiving a user initiated communications call;</u>

processing characteristic data associated with ~~a~~ <u>the</u> communications call at a network switch to determine if intelligent network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;

passing said characteristic data to a network service data gateway when said service data is required;

processing at least part of said characteristic data by said gateway to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and a communication protocol for connecting to said network location; and

obtaining said service data and passing said service data to said switch to establish said call.

2. (Original) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, including storing said service data in said gateway for subsequent requests for said service data.

3. (Original) A call processing method as claimed in claim 2, including deleting said service data from said gateway after a predetermined period of time.

4. (Original) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network location is in a central IN service data database.

5. (Original) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network location is in a local mobile network.

6. (Original) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network location is in a foreign telecommunications network.

7. (Original) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said gateway is local to a user originating said call.

8. (Original) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said gateway includes Visitor IN (VIN) computer logic for obtaining and caching service data for users in the area of said gateway.

9. (Original) A call processing method as claims in claim 8, wherein said network location is within Home IN (HIN) computer logic including a central IN service data database.

10. (Original) A call processing method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said communications call includes a voice, data or messaging connection.

11. (Currently Amended) A network system having:

a network switch for <u>receiving a user initiated communications call, and</u> processing characteristic data associated with a <u>the</u> communications call to determine if Intelligent Network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;

a network service data gateway for receiving said characteristic data from said network switch when said service data is required, said gateway being adapted to process at least part of the characteristic data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and a communication protocol for connecting to said network location; and

wherein said gateway is adapted to receive said service data and pass the service data to said switch to establish said call.

12. (Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said gateway stores said service data for subsequent requests for said service data.

13. (Original) A network system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said gateway deletes said service data after a predetermined period of time.

14. (Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said network location is in a central IN service data database.

15. (Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said network location is in a local mobile network.

16. (Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said network location is in a foreign telecommunications network.

17. (Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said gateway is local to a user originating said call.

18.　(Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said gateway includes Visitor IN (VIN) computer logic for obtaining and caching service data for users in the area of said gateway.

19.　(Original) A network system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said network location is within Home IN (HIN) computer logic including a central IN service data database.

20.　(Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in any one of claims 11-19, wherein said communication call includes a voice, data or messaging connection.

21.　(Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, including a plurality of said gateway covering respective areas.

22.　(Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said service data is public mobility data.

23.　(Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said service data is terminal network selection data.

24.　(Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said gateway includes means for policing messages passed between networks.

25.　(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the communication protocol is selected from the group of protocols consisting of INAP, IS41, MTUP, and TCP/IP.

26.　(Previously Presented) A network of system according to claim 11, wherein the communication protocol is selected from the group of protocols consisting of INAP, IS41, MTUP, and TCP/IP.

27.　(Previously Presented)　A call processing method, including:

　　receiving a user initiated communications call;

　　processing characteristic data associated with a the communications call at a network switch to determine if intelligent network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;

　　passing said characteristic data to a network service data gateway when said service data is required;

processing at least part of said characteristic data by said gateway to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and a communication protocol for connecting to said network location, wherein the network location is within Home IN (HIN) computer logic including a central IN service data database;

obtaining said service data and passing said service data to said switch to establish said call by using a Visitor IN (VIN) computer logic; and

caching the service data in the VIN computer logic.

28.   (Previously Presented)   A network system having:

a network switch for <u>receiving a user initiated communications call, and</u> processing characteristic data associated with a <u>the</u> communications call to determine if Intelligent Network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;

a network service data gateway for receiving said characteristic data from said network switch when said service data is required, said gateway being adapted to process at least part of the characteristic data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and a communication protocol for connecting to said network location;

a Visitor Intelligent Network (VIN) computer logic included in the gateway, the VIN computer logic configured to obtain and cache service data for users in the area of the gateway, the VIN computer logic further configured to communicate with the network switch in any of a plurality of protocols; and

wherein said gateway is adapted to receive said service data and pass the service data to said switch to establish said call.

29.   (Previously Presented)   A network system having:

a network switch for <u>receiving a user initiated communications call, and</u> processing characteristic data associated with a <u>the</u> communications call to determine if Intelligent Network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;

a network service data gateway for receiving said characteristic data from said network switch when said service data is required, said gateway being adapted to process at least part of the characteristic data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and a communication protocol for connecting to said network location;

wherein said gateway is adapted to receive said service data and pass the service data to said switch to establish said call; and

wherein said gateway is also adapted to cache service data for users connecting to the gateway.